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LETTER DATED 10 JULY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you, with the deepest regret, that the Security Council is not fulfilling its mandate under paragraph 21 of resolution 687 (1991), which explicitly provides for the list of articles covered by the embargo to be reviewed every 60 days.

In a letter sent on 26 June to your predecessor as President of the Security Council for the month of June, my delegation expressed the wish to participate in the debate on that question, in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. However, the Council decided to hold private informal consultations, which did not lead to the adoption and disclosure of any clear official position for the people of the world and my country to consider. The result was the situation which your predecessor, His Excellency the Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire, reported to the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of our Mission on 20 June, namely that the Council was divided on the issue, and that the embargo had therefore been maintained.

You and the Council know full well that the humanitarian situation has gone beyond legally acceptable limits, and that it is threatening the very survival of the Iraqi people - in the name of the international rule of law.

The fact that the Iraqi people are in distress has been borne out by a number of independent reports, including Mr. Ahtisaari's report (S/22366), which in March attested to the seriousness of the situation and described it as apocalyptic. It has also been confirmed by many other reports and studies, including the report of the Harvard University group, the report of Physicians for Peace (S/22578), the July 1991 study by the American-Arab Medical League, the report of Physicians for Human Rights, the reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Catholic Relief Services, and the letter from International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

In the light of all these reports, the Security Council's position appears surprising and strange to us. We hope that the Council, which is constantly demanding that Iraq fulfil its obligations, will itself do the right thing and carry out its mandate under resolution 687 (1991).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative